

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-19 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-14 AEC-11 SCI-06 MC-02 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 121455Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6092

INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

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VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: MORE SOVIET COMMENT ON U.S. DEFENSE ISSUES

REF: MOSCOW 1937 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET PRESS DISCUSSION OF U.S. DEFENSE ISSUES
HAS EDGED UP A NOTCH WITH PUBLICATION OF WEEKEND
COMMENTARIES IN PRAVDA (FEB. 9) AND RED STAR
(FEB. 10). RED STAR IS PARTICULARLY HARSH ON
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, ASSERTING EXPLICITLY THAT HE
(ALONG WITH GOODPASTER, ALSOP, JACKSON AND LUNS)
IS ONE OF THE POLITICIANS BREZHNEV WAS COMPLAINING
ABOUT IN HIS HAVANA SPEECH AS BEING OUT OF STEP WITH
DETENTE. IT QUOTES APPROVINGLY THE VIEW OF LONDON
TIMES WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT BROGAN THAT SCHLESINGER'S
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STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT SALT ONE MAY HAVE BEEN A

BAD DEAL FOR THE U.S. REPRESENT A HERETICAL ASSUMPTION.

2. ARTICLE WARNS THAT PENTAGON EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE CAN ONLY HARM CAUSE OF PEACE. IT SAYS NEW MILITARY PROGRAMS -- IT CITES B-1, TRIDENT AND CRUISE MISSILES -- AND NEW STRATEGIC DOCTRINES (NOT FURTHER DISCUSSED) CAN ONLY IMPEDE FURTHER INTERNATIONAL RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

3. PRAVDA COMMENTARY (BY SERGEY VISHNEVSKY) AVOIDS THE AD MOMINEM APPROACH OF RED STAR, BUT SHARES ITS SIMPLISTIC FOCUS ON DOLLAR INCREASE IN BUDGET AND ITS THIN-SKINNED SENSITIVITY TO U.S. STATEMENTS ABOUT GROWING SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH. VISHNEVSKY GIVES HIS PIECE A MORE POLITICAL TWIST BY ASSERTING THAT PENTAGON PLANS RUN COUNTER TO ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ABOUT BUILDING A STRUCTURE OF PEACE, AS WELL AS TO VITAL INTERESTS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE. HE CITES RECENT HARRIS POLL WHICH FOUND 70 PERCENT OF AMERICANS FAVOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS WITH USSR.
DUBS

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